

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5829

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, SP, NL
SUBJECT: NAC MEETING ON SPAIN

REF: USNATO 6090

DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS, NOVEMBER 12,
MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN REFERRED TO RECENT NAC DISCUSSION
INITIATED BY US ON POST-FRANCO SPAIN. HE COMMENTED THAT WHILE
NETHERLANDS AGREED SUBJECT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED, HE FELT US
DID NOT PRESENT PROBLEM IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. HE ASSERTED
US POSITION REFLECTED EXCLUSIVELY US NATIONAL INTEREST AND
IN PARTICULAR EXISTING BILATERAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH
SPAIN. HE SUGGESTED US SHOULD ALSO TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT
LONG-STANDING EUROPEAN VIEWS ON SPAIN AND ACCEPT FACT THAT
VERY REAL DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MILITATED AGAINST THEIR
NOW ADDRESSING SPANISH QUESTION IN WAY THAT COULD BE
TAKEN AS ENDORSEMENT OF POSSIBLE CONTINUATION OF UNDEMO-
CRATIC REGIME. SITUATION IN SPAIN BORE CAREFUL OBSERVATION
BUT DUTCH FELT IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE JUDGEMENT COULD
BE MADE WHETHER JUAN CARLOS WOULD BE ABLE TO CHART NEW
AND PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL EVOLUTION FOR SPAIN. HE EXPRESSED
HOPE US WOULD NOT PRESS ITS POSITION ON SPAIN UNTIL SPANISH
SITUATION BECAME CLEARER.
GOULD

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